and Credit Guarantee Corporation Ltd. (DICGC). Under the scheme, in the event of liquidation, reconstruction or amalgamation of an insured bank, every depositor of that bank is entitled to repayment of his deposits subject to a maximum of Rs. One lakh as per Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act. Government intends making appropriate legislative changes shortly to strentgthen the scheme.

Special Surcharge for Victims of Gujarat Quake

562. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the special surcharge of 2 per cent levied for victims of Gujarat Earthquake on 26th January, 2001;

(b) if so, the total amount collected from this surcharge;

(c) whether this amount was paid or transferred in the account of Government of Gujarat;

(d) if so, when and how; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) The 2% surcharge imposed on Corporation Tax and Income Tax in the aftermath of Gujarat earthquake is available to the Government of Gujarat through releases of assistance under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Non-Plan Grant for earthquake relief. An amount of Rs. 1467.37 crores has been released to the State under NCCF and Non-Plan grant of Rs. 750 crore has been provided to the State Government for earthquake relief during 2001-02. This is against anticipated receipts of surcharge on Corporation and Income Tax subject to adjustment on receipt of final figures of the 2 percent surcharge levied in the wake of the Gujarat earthquake.

Mishandling of Funds by Banks

563. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that top management of Banks is involved in diverting money to stock market as per the news-item of Economic Times dated the 26th September, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Group Insurance Scheme for Rural Sector

564. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to start a group insurance scheme for the rural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be initiated;

(c) how far the poor shall be benefited and the expenditure expected to be incurred thereon, State-wise, annually; and

(d) the total number of Self-Helf Groups (SHGs) linked with Banks on date and amount advanced to SHGs, State-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) and (b) The insurance companies / corporation have a number of group insurance schemes catering to the needs of rural population. Some of the important schemes are — Janashree Bima Yojana and Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana. Apart from these, several customized policies have been offered by insurance companies to State Governments and other groups of individuals. No new scheme is proposed to be taken up by the Government during the current year.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Enhancement of Excise Duty on Petroleum Products

†565. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to enhance excise duty on petroleum products;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.